

Letters to Community Preservation Act Committee
In Support of Proposal to purchase Hall Property off Old Farm Road
(Email and home addresses have been removed)

From: Rod Greene
Subject: Hall Properties
Date: January 10, 2015 at 10:31:12 AM EST

Dear Ms. Streeter:

I am writing to express support for the purchase of the "Hall Properties" near Gull Pond and Owens Pond off of Old Farm Road. I have lived in the area for 35 years and believe these parcels would be a valuable addition to the areas already preserved. Recreation, wildlife habitat, and open space would all be enhanced by this purchase. I think Mr. Hall has done a very responsible thing in offering this to the town and I truly hope that we will take him up on it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Roderic Greene

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From: "Hoffman, Marion"
Subject: Re: Purchase of Gordon Hall Property
Date: January 11, 2015 at 3:55:23 PM EST
Cc: sarah neely

Mary Streeter,

I am resident of the Fields Association which is a neighborhood that abuts Gull Pond and the Wentworth Conservation areas. I frequently enjoy the open space that we are so lucky to have so close to our homes. I hike and cross country ski in the Wentworth Farm Conservation area and feel fortunate to live in a community that values open space both for recreational use and for its visual beauty. I thoroughly support the use of CPA funds to purchase the 31.2 acres of land offered by Gordon Hall.

I urge you as CPAC Chairwoman to support this project. My husband and I feel so strongly about this that we are donating one hundred dollars to help purchase the land.

Thank you!

Marion Hoffman Forman
Amherst 01002

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From: Ann Greene
Subject: Wentworth Farm and Gull Pond
Date: January 15, 2015 at 3:01:16 PM EST

I am thrilled at the prospect of these conservation areas being expanded. I live in the area, and on a daily basis enjoy both the view and trails located there. One of the best aspects of living in Amherst is the availability of conservation areas to walk in. I am totally behind the effort to purchase the additional land. Ann Greene

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From Amherst Bulletin, Jan. 16, 2015 <http://www.amherstbulletin.com/home/15198273-95/story.html>
"Wants Amherst to close deal on conservation land"

To the editor:

Your Jan. 2 article, "Walking into 2015," highlighted the pleasure of using the many conservation areas in the Pioneer Valley. This article included information about Amherst's Wentworth Farm Conservation Area. I would like to mention that a 31.6-acre parcel of land abutting both this conservation area and a neighboring one, Gull Pond, has been offered to the town of Amherst for purchase.

Both the Conservation Department and Conservation Commission approve this purchase. In October 2014 the town applied for and received a \$235,655 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant from the state.

The LAND grant funds must be matched by local funding which is why the town recently sent a proposal for additional funding of \$105,995 to the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC). If approved by CPAC in the next two months, the recommendation will go to Town Meeting in the spring. CPAC members are interested in use of these conservation areas so I urge all of you who use these conservation areas and who want to support this purchase to do so by contacting CPAC. This is a great opportunity to increase the size of these conservation areas and enhance the enjoyment all of us take in the natural world around us.

Sally Neely
Amherst

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From: Jane Mairs
Subject: Wentworth Farms Conservation Area
Date: January 17, 2015 at 8:53:19 PM EST

Mary Streeter, Chair
CPAC

Dear Ms. Streeter,

We are frequent users of the Wentworth Farms Conservation Area, and support the land purchase that is currently under consideration to add to this beautiful area.

We would also be pleased to make a donation to the cause if there is a point at which that becomes a necessity.

Jane and Dudley Mairs
Amherst, MA

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From: Barbara Hruska
Subject: CPAC
Date: January 18, 2015 at 4:01:15 PM EST

Dear Mary,

Hi, it's Barbara Hruska. I'm contacting you about the potential purchase of conservation land by Gull Pond. I've been back in Amherst for three years and am living in the Ice Pond Woods Condominiums nearby. I strongly support the purchase of the land and it gets used by many people every day.

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Barbara Hruska
Amherst, MA 01003

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From: Sandy Wang
Sent: Monday, January 19, 2015 8:55 AM
To: Community Preservation Act Committee
Subject: Hall Property Acquisition

To whom it may concern,

We are in favor of the expansion of the conservation areas of Gull Pond and Wentworth Farm.

Having lived on Crossbrook road for twenty years, we have seen significant residential development in the area- Old Farm Road, Kestral Lane, and areas of Amherst Woods now house many families in new homes. Amherst is a great place to live, and we never took issue with the development all around us.

Recently the town has done beautiful work at Wentworth Farm- installing bridges over wet areas, creating a parking area, etc., and more people than ever are enjoying this great hiking and community area.

Gull pond is equally beautiful. Though not presently a hiking destination, it serves as a natural backdrop to balance out the heavy residential development as well as the large building and parking area which houses Stavros Center.

If the Hall property is purchased in order to expand these conservation areas, balance will be ensured between development and nature- an essential and worthy goal.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,
Sandra and Fred Wang

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From: Steven Wilco
Subject: CPAC - Hall Property
Date: January 19, 2015 at 9:29:24 AM EST

Hello,

First, thank you for your service in chairing Amherst's Community Preservation Act Committee.

I write to you in regard to the possible purchase of the Hall Property along Old Farm Road. As a residents of Ice Pond Woods, my husband and I frequently use the conservation lands in our area for walking and running. We greatly enjoy exploring all that these areas offer in terms of natural beauty. We understand that there is a possibility that land adjacent to the conservation land could possibly be sold for large-lot homes. We would rather see that land remain natural and become part of the conservation land given that it is our sense that adding homes in that location would diminish from the accessibility and beauty of that area.

I understand that you have to weigh different factors in this situation, but I wanted to express my support as a member of the neighborhood in question. I will put in the mail tomorrow a small donation toward the committee for the purchase of the property.

Again, thank you for your service on the committee.

Peace,
Steven Wilco
Amherst, MA 01002

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From: Arlen Gould
Subject: Hall Property Purchase
Date: January 19, 2015 at 4:55:48 PM EST

Hello Ms. Streeter,

My name is Arlen Gould and I live ... in Amherst. I write in support of CPAC providing \$105, 995 of CPAC funds to purchase the Hall Property to protect the land on Wentworth Farm from development as well as the Gull Pond land.

I enjoy walking in both these locations and very much appreciate the natural beauty. These two places are quality of life enhancers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your work on the CPAC committee.

Sincerely,

Arlen Gould

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From: Lena Dohlman
Subject: Request support for Hall property conservation
Date: January 27, 2015 at 5:44:31 PM EST

January 27, 2015

Dear Chairwoman Mary Streeter,

I am writing to ask you to support the purchase of the Gordon Hall property as conservation land by the Community Preservation Act Committee (CPAC).

I own a condominium at 87 Pine Grove Amherst, near the Gordon Hall property and have always enjoyed the area for walks, cross country skiing and peace and quiet. It would be such a shame for the town to lose this area to development. Purchase of the land by the town would increase the Wentworth Farm Conservation Area by 25.2 acres, and the conservation area around Gull Pond (the pond near Cross Brook) by 6.0 acres.

The request is for \$105,995 of CPAC funds. (\$235,655 from the state Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant for this project was awarded in October.)

I am writing since I will be unable to attend the meeting in the Town Hall on February 10th. I will be making a donation to the CPAC funds.

I hope that we can have your support for the purchase of the Hall property.

Sincerely,

Lena Gerhart
Amherst

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From: Rick Carpenter
Subject: CPAC Hall Property Purchase
Date: January 30, 2015 at 8:04:51 PM EST

Dear Ms. Streeter,

I am writing you in support of CPAC's providing \$105, 995 of funds to purchase the Hall Property, so that the land on Wentworth Farm and Gull Pond can be protected from development. Both properties are within walking distance of our house, so that they provide an accessible location to enjoy nature without having to drive. Many of our neighbors similarly enjoy these properties and it is not unusual to encounter them when out for a walk. Losing these properties, I believe, would diminish the feeling of community in our neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your service on the CPAC committee.

Sincerely,

Richard Carpenter
Amherst, MA 01002

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From: Patricia Ramsey
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 2:49 PM
To: Community Preservation Act Committee
Subject: Purchase of the Hall Properties

TO: Community Preservation Act Committee
FR: Patty Ramsey and Fred Moseley
RE: Proposal to purchase the Hall Properties

We are writing to strongly support the proposal to purchase the Hall Properties adjacent to Gull Pond and including part of Owens Pond. We both have spent hundreds of wonderful hours walking and cross country skiing, and enjoying the sunset in this area. It is truly a remarkable resource for a wide range of Amherst residents.

First, even though it is close to several apartment complexes and private homes, Wentworth Conservation Area has the feeling of being really "away from it all." From many vantage points you see only meadows, trees, a pond, and mountains. This particular advantage would be marred by the having a number of houses along the shore of Owen Pond (not to mention the noise and disruption caused by the construction itself.).

Second, there is a great diversity of wildlife in the area that benefit from the uninterrupted expanse of meadows and woods.

Third, Wentworth Conservation Area serves a diverse group of people from many ethnic and economic and age groups – far more than other conservation areas in the town. This pattern may be due to the proximity of a range of housing options (apartment complexes and private homes). The area also offers a number of recreational opportunities that appeal to a lot of different people (e.g., walking, skiing, ice skating, fishing, bird watching, dog walking, kayaking – to mention just a few). Also, because the area is relatively flat and in some places quite smooth, it is accessible to people of all ages and mobility levels. We often see 3 and 4 generation families walking in the fields – from babies to 90 year olds. And one time we saw someone in a wheel chair.

In short, the Wentworth Conservation Area is a scenic and spiritual treasure that serves many people of all ages and backgrounds and supports a wide range of wildlife. We urge you to purchase the Hall Properties to preserve and enhance its beauty and accessibility – for all of us and our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for reading and considering this request.

Patty Ramsey
Fred Moseley

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From: Linda Wentworth
Subject: CPAC Hall Property
Date: February 2, 2015 at 5:34:09 PM EST

Dear Mary Streeter,

I write to express my support for the town purchasing this property. I walk several times a week, year-round, in this area, and I believe this land would be a wonderful addition to the conservation land.

I have sent a small check to the Town of Amherst for this purpose.

Best wishes,

Linda Wentworth
Amherst

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From: Teresa Sandler
Sent: Monday, February 02, 2015 9:21 PM
To: Community Preservation Act Committee
Subject: Hall Property Acquisition Proposal

Dear Chairwoman Mary Streeter, Community Preservation Act Committee,

We are writing to express our hope that the Town of Amherst will purchase the 25.6 acres that Gordon Hall has put up for sale increasing Wentworth and Gull Pond Conservation area. We live nearby and frequently use Wentworth for hiking and biking in the spring, summer and fall, and for hiking and cross-country skiing in the winter. We enjoy watching the birds and turtles and have been delighted to see bluebirds and barred owls multiple times!

Gull Pond also has interesting wildlife. Over the years we have seen great blue herons fishing, river otters cavorting on the ice or bounding out of the tall grass and of course lots of beaver and Canada geese. Our whole family has had fun skating on the pond in the winter.

We are in favor of protecting the area and the wildlife and we are mailing \$50 to the Town of Amherst toward that goal.

Sincerely,

Teresa and Steve Sandler

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From: Mark McDonald
Subject: CPAC purchase of Gordon Hall Land (Old Farm Rd.)
Date: February 3, 2015 at 10:13:22 AM EST

Dear Mary Streeter,

My family and I have lived at 11 Pine Grove (Ice Pond Woods Condo Association) for the past 20 years. We have raised two children, spending countless hours hiking and exploring about Gull Pond and in the Wentworth Conservation area. Just a quick email to express our strong support of the CPAC purchase of the acreage owned by Gordon Hall.

This entire area is a wonderful community asset and should be protected from further development. Worth noting that it is not just the neighbors in this area that utilized this natural resource. People from throughout Amherst park in this area and enjoy Gull Pond and Wentworth Conservation area.

Thanks for your leadership of CPAC and all the time you put into these types of complex issues.

Best,

Mark & Sharon McDonald
Amherst, MA 01002

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From: sarah neely
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 11:53 AM
To: Community Preservation Act Committee Cc: Suzy Riter
Subject: Hall properties

Dear CPA Committee Members,
Attached is a letter in favor of the proposal for CPA funds to buy the Hall properties.
Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sally Neely & Sue Riter
Attachment:
February 4, 2015

Dear Members of the Community Preservation Act Committee:

We are writing in support of the proposal for CPA funding to buy the Hall properties and increase the size of Wentworth Farm and Gull Pond Conservation Areas. The Conservation Department's proposal lists many of the reasons why the Town should agree to purchase this property. Those of us who use these conservation areas want to add our personal support.

One of the reasons we bought our home is that it overlooks Gull Pond and the open area surrounding it. In the more than 5 years since we have lived here, we have seen great blue heron, ducks, otters, and beaver; neighbors have seen osprey fishing in spring and fall, bald eagles, migrating ducks (harlequin & wood), and spotted turtles. It continues to be a daily source of pleasure for us and our neighbors.

Those of us who use Gull Pond and Wentworth Farm are thrilled at the prospect of enlarging and protecting them and strongly support the purchase of this property.

Sincerely,

Sally Neely & Susan Riter
Amherst

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From: Elisa Campbell
Subject: CPAC support for purchase of Hall property for conservation
Date: February 5, 2015 at 11:16:14 AM EST

February 5, 2015

Dear Chairwoman Streeter,

I am writing to ask the Community Preservation Act Committee to support the purchase of the Gordon Hall property as conservation land with Community Preservation Act funds.

I own a condominium at 27 Pine Grove in Amherst, near the Gordon Hall property. I have enjoyed walking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing in the Wentworth Conservation Area for the almost 30 years I have

lived here.

It is especially important both for human enjoyment, and, more importantly, for habitat for birds and animals, to preserve large contiguous areas of open space. Purchase of Hall's property by the town would increase the Wentworth Farm Conservation Area by 25.2 acres, and the conservation area around Gull Pond (the pond near Cross Brook) by 6.0 acres.

As you know, this project needs \$105,995 of CPAC funds. The state has stepped up and offered more than twice that amount (\$235,655) from its Local Acquisition for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant, thus indicating the importance of this purchase in the larger context.

I regret that I cannot attend the meeting on February 10 because it is at the same time as the monthly meeting of our condominium board (on which I serve).

I am making a donation to the CPAC funds.

I hope that we can have your support for the purchase of the Hall property.

Sincerely,

Elisa Campbell
Amherst

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From: Phyllis Ladd
Subject: Proposed Hall property purchase
Date: February 6, 2015 at 7:03:25 AM EST

February 6, 2015
Mary Streeter, Chair
Community Preservation Act Committee
Amherst, MA

I am writing in support of the proposed purchase of the Gordon Hall property, which would make an important addition to the conservation lands already in that area, including Wentworth Farm, Gull Pond and Upper Fort River. The chance to add contiguous land to valuable open space and habitat does not always arise and it is great when communities seize those opportunities for the benefit of all.

This particular purchase would help protect and sustain the fresh water ponds and streams in the area, which are critical elements to the health of the habitat. Time, money and energy has already been spent in the area, clearing invasive species, improving the waterway, etc. The purchase of the Hall property will enhance the value of this investment in Wentworth Farm and its environs.

As you see, I am a resident of Belchertown but like most of us who live in the area, the commitment to conservation and the easy access to natural areas is a reason I live and work here. Happily, trails and conservation areas are not confined by our civic boundaries. I am happy to contribute money and time to this and other conservation efforts, which in turn contribute to the quality of life I so enjoy in the Pioneer Valley.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Ladd
Belchertown, MA 01007

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From: Isabella Halsted
Subject: CPAC - Hall property
Date: February 9, 2015 at 1:51:43 PM EST

Chairwoman Mary Streeter
Community Preservation Act Committee
The Conservation Department

Dear Ms Streeter,

As a long time resident of the Ice Pond Woods Association, I have seen many acres of beautiful woods and meadows around here disappear as suburban houses and roads have moved in--and what was once clear water turn rusty. I;ve noticed, too that Gull Pond has recently become choked with algae in the spring and summer, and where there was once much bird life there, it's now scarce. I'm glad to hear that the pond's health is under study--perhaps with proper care and protection, this can be turned around.

Owens Pond, on what is now Wentworth Farms Conservation Area, is in much better health and must be kept that way!

I am deeply interested in preserving the area from further development--and in keeping both Gull and Owens ponds protected. I am happy to hear that the Conservation Department is interested in purchasing the Gordon Hall property flanking both ponds, now that it is up for sale. I wholeheartedly support this...and am making a donation to the cause, which I will bring to Town Hall on Tuesday at the CPAC meeting.

Thank you for all you and your committee are doing!

Isabella Halsted
Ice Pond Woods

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From: Sandy Rosenberg
Subject: Purchase of G. Hall's land
Date: February 9, 2015 at 7:41:21 PM EST

Hi Mary,

I am writing this email to voice my support for CPAC to grant the funds requested by the Conservation department to purchase the 31.6 acres Gordon Hall has offered for sale.

I have been a resident and home owner at Ice Pond Woods for twenty years and feel that it would be a travesty to allow these beautiful areas to be used for large estate lot development. Instead our town should continue to protect this area so that it can remain as conservation land.

Thank you,

Sandy Rosenberg
Amherst, MA 01002

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From: George Teter
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 6:58 PM
To: Community Preservation Act Committee
Subject: Hall Property

Dear CPA:

We are unable to get to your meeting tonight but want to urge the town to purchase the Hall property. The adjoining property already belonging to the town is extremely valuable to many of us for walks and enjoyment of Wentworth Pond and its wildlife, and of course has in the last couple of years been made even more special because of the town's attention to native plant restoration and the building of the new bridge and pond outlet. We're very familiar with the additional property on the other side of the pond and walk there often as well, circling the unique wetland area in its center and enjoying the birds. We've seen otter around the pond (as well as in Gull Pond) a number of times, and barred owl, turkey, and of course deer. Adding more land around Gull Pond would also perhaps give those of us interested in the pond's welfare more chance to understand what is happening to it and what will be needed for its preservation—in addition to otter, Gull Pond is a resource for a great blue heron, several duck species, frogs, fish, and numerous turtles. It's all a wonderful semi-wild region for those of us living in the neighborhood, and brings in many others who come by car. We very much hope the town decides to acquire and protect the whole parcel.

George Teter

Sonya Teter